

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 03476 020818Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 SSC-01 CPR-03 /078 W  
-----042915 030407Z /20

R 020630Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8021  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3476

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, SU  
SUBJ: CHANGES IN CABINET AND SSU LEADERSHIP

REF: KHARTOUM 3084 NOTAL

SUMMARY: SEVERAL CHANGES IN SUDANESE CABINET, IMPORTANT CHANGES IN SSU LEADERSHIP, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT CHANGES WERE ANNOUNCED JULY 29. MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES INCLUDE RETRIE-  
MENT OF MINDEF AND CHIEF OF STAFF, WITH NIMEIRI TAKING OVER DEFENSE PORTFOLIO AND ABDEL MAJID HAMID KHALIL BEING PROMOTED TO LT. GENERAL AND CHIEF OF STAFF SUDANESE ARMED FORCES. SEVERAL OTHER CABINET CHANGES WERE MADE BUT DID NOT RESULT IN EXPECTED WHOESALE ENTRY OF SADIQ AL-MAHDI FOLLOWERS INTO CABINET. IN SSU, FOR FIRST TIME, SOUTHERN REGIONAL SECRETARIAT GENERAL HAS BEEN FORMED AND HEADED BY JOSEPH LAGU. THUS, RECENT ELECTORAL CHANGES IN SOUTHERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ARE NOW REFLECTED IN SSU LEADERSHIP.  
END SUMMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KHARTO 03476 020818Z

1. SUDAN ANNOUNCED NEW APPOINTMENTS TO SEVERAL CABINET POSITIONS ON JULY 29 AND CHANGES OF PERSONNEL FOR MORE THAN DOZEN OTHER POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AND IN SUDAN SOCIALIST UNION (SSU). NIMEIRI HIMSELF WILL TAKE OVER MINISTRY OF DEFENSE VICE LT. GENERAL BASHIR MOHAMED ALI. MAJOR GENERAL ABDEL MAGID HAMID KHALIL IS PROMOTED TO GENERAL TO PERFORM DUTIES OF CHEF OF STAFF, RELIEVING

GENERAL MOHAMED OSMAN HASHIM. MAJID ALSO REPLACES FORMER MINDEF AS SSU OFFICIAL IN CHARGE MILITARY FORCES.

2. MUSTAFA OSMAN HASSAN IS NEW MINISTER OF TRANSPORT REPLACING ABDEL RAHMAN ABDALLA WHO BECOMES ONE OF SEVERAL SSU ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERALS. DR. SHARIF ALTUHAMIS IS NEW MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINING. HIS PREDECESSOR ALSO GOES TO AN SSU ASSISTANT SEC GEN POSITION. ATTORNEY GENERAL DR. HASSAN OMAR AHMED HAS BEEN REPLACED BY MAHDI ALFAHAL. FOUR NEW MINISTERS OF STATE IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES WERE ALSO ANNOUNCED. MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORKS MOAWIYA ABU BAKR DIED NATURAL DEATH IN LONDON JULY 29 WHILE ON VACATION. NO REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN NAMED AS YET.

3. FOUR MEMBERS OF SSU SECRETARY GENERAL STAFF WERE RELIEVED, INCLUDING FORMER FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID, ASSISTANT SEC GEN FOR THOUGHT AND PROPAGATION AND UNTIL RECENTLY CHAIRMAN, SAHAFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS. NINE NEW APPOINTMENTS INCLUDE MUSLIM BROTHERS LEADER DR. HASSAN ABDALLA AL TURABI AS ASSISTANT SEC GEN FOR INFORMATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HIS PREDECESSOR MAMOUM AWAD ABU ZEID MOVES TO MANSOUR KHALID'S VACANCY. MOST OTHER SSU CHANGES ARE AMONG PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES.

4. SUDANGOV ALSO ANNOUNCED FORMATION FOR FIRST TIME OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KHARTO 03476 020818Z

ELEVEN PERSON SSU REGIONAL SECRETARIAT GENERAL HEADED BY JOSEPH LAGU, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL SSU. REGIONAL SECRETARIAT INCLUDES HILARY PAUL LOGALI, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR SOUTHERN REGION, SAMUEL ARU BOL, SOUTHERN MINISTER OF INTERIOR, CLEMENT MBORO, SPEAKER OF SOUTHERN ASSEMBLY AND LAWRENCE WOL WOL, REGIONAL FINANCE AND PLANNING MINISTER. PHILIP OBANG, SSU SECRETARY FOR UPPER NILE, IS RELIEVED OF THAT POSITION AND APPOINTED AMBASSADOR IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KHARTOUM.

5. COMMENT: COPIES OF ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT. IN GENERAL CABINET CHANGES ARE CAUTIOUS AND ANTICLIMACTIC FOR KHARTOUM RUMOR-MONGERS WHO EXPECT STILL MORE CHANGES. MINISTER OF ENERGY SHARIF ALTUHAMIS IS FORMER Umma PARTY MEMBER TO JOIN NIMEIRI CABINET SINCE RECONCILIATION BUT HAS NEVER BEEN POLITICAL ACTIVIST. MARRIED TO AUNT OF SADIQ AL MAHDI, SHARIF WAS IMPRISONED FOR SHORT TIME AFTER JULY 1977 COUP ATTEMPT. DR. TURABI IS CHIEF OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD. FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL IS MUSLIM BROTHER SO RELATIVE AMOUNT OF THEIR INFLUENCE IN GOVERNMENT HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN GREATLY CHANGED. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT IS ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN

CHANGED BECAUSE OF FAILURES OF RAILROADS, ROAD SYSTEM, PIPELINES, ETC. SIMILARLY REMOVAL OF MINENERGY REFLECTS GROWING DISSATISFACTION WITH CHRONIC GASOLINE SHORTAGES IN COUNTRY.

6. CHANGES AT DEFENSE MINISTRY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME. FORMER MINDEF AND CHEF OF STAFF WERE BOTH VERY FRIENDLY TO U.S., BUT FORMER HAD BOTHERSOME MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND LATTER WAS NOT VERY DYNAMIC OR HIGHLY RESPECTED WITHIN ARMED FORCES. IN CONTRAST, GEN. MAJID IS TOUGH, CRUSTY PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER WHO IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE IS OCCASIONALLY CRITICAL OF U.S., BUT IS STRONG SUPPORTER OF CLOSER U.S. - SUDAN MILITARY RELATIONS. INDEED, HIS CRITICISM IS THAT WE ARE TOO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KHARTO 03476 020818Z

CAUTIOUS IN THIS REGARD. WE HAD EXPECTED NATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION CHIEF OMER AL-TAYYIB TO BE NAMED MINDEF, BUT ONE RUMOR HAS IT HTAT ARMY EFFECTIVELY VETOED THIS. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER NIMEIRI WILL TURN DEFENSE MINISTRY OVER TO TAYYIB IN FUTURE.

7. ON BALANCE NIMEIRI SEEMS AT LEAST TO BE TRYING TO INJECT SOME TOUGHNESS INTO HIS CABINET AND TO GET RID OF SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE SICK, TIRED OR INEFFECTIVE. AS NOTED ABOVE HE ALSO TOOK STEPS TO CONFIRM PRIMACY FO JOSEPH LAGU GROUP IN SOUTHERN POLITICAL ARENA. BOGOSIAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KHARTO03476  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780317-0583  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** KHARTOUM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197808108/aaaadmr.x.tel  
**Line Count:** 148  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c40f8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 KHARTOUM 3084  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1564019  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHANGES IN CABINET AND SSU LEADERSHIP  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINS, PINT, SU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c40f8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014